

Heather Stockdale

Heather Stockdale is the Executive Director of Georgia Cares, the statewide coordinating agency for child victims of sex trafficking and exploitation in Georgia. In her role as Executive Director, she is responsible for the overall development and implementation of the organization's mission and strategic priorities. Her professional experience and training within the Trafficking and Youth Development fields serve her vision to pursue strategies that support holistic health and growth of youth while also building the State's capacity to support families and communities in the fight against Human Trafficking.

Ms. Stockdale's passion for child advocacy, youth development and government policy began during her time working under the Office of the Child Advocate. Her aspirations and dedication to these areas led her to a career at the Governor's Office for Children and Families (GOCF). At GOCF, she was named the Director of the Statewide Task Force on Commercial Sexual Exploitation, led the State's Trafficking initiatives, and served as the Division Administrator of the Youth Development Division. During her tenure for State Government, Ms. Stockdale was a founding member of Georgia Care Connection Office Inc., where she served on the Board of Directors. Ms. Stockdale was then nominated and appointed by the Board to serve as the Executive Director of Georgia Cares (previously Georgia Care Connection Office Inc.) in December 2013.

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Ms. Stockdale has been instrumental in the State's anti-trafficking initiatives since 2009, working with federal partners, other States, non-governmental organizations, law enforcement, prosecutors, medical providers, and youth serving agencies to forge multi-disciplinary partnerships. Ms. Stockdale thrives on improving efficiency, crafting innovative models, creating and implementing public policy, improving the effectiveness

of systems, and improving access to services in the fight to eradicate child sex trafficking.